

DRAFT TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: 08 MAY 2007

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Uxbridge, qualified to vote in Town elections and in Town Affairs, met at the High School Gymnasium, in Precinct 2, in said Uxbridge, and transacted the following business:

Moderator Harold Klei called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. A quorum was in attendance to vote on all articles in the warrant. The moderator had previously submitted a list of tellers appointed for the evening to the Town Clerk. The Moderator announced that Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg was present.

The meeting began with the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Retiring Finance Committee Members Sandra Rice and George Goulet were recognized and honored for their years of service, and presented with plaques.

The moderator announced that a senior center survey was being circulated. He discussed the rules and regulations for Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1: REPORTS

To hear the report of any outstanding committee and act thereon.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

MOTION: Move to receive and file any reports

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation (6-0)

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

Selectman James Dwyer, for the Bylaws Review Committee, which also includes Stephen O'Connell (Chairman) and Tim Rice, reported that review is on going and recommendations will be presented at future town meetings for consideration.

Cecilia Boatman, Chair of the Board of Registrars, reported on progress being made by the Board and the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds such sums as required to pay prior fiscal year's bill(s), or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager (*The Board of Selectmen voted on 2/26/07 for the Town Manager to sponsor certain articles under the responsibility of the Town Manager*).

Commentary: *FY06 invoice that had inadvertently not been processed or paid.*

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amounts as stated in the following chart for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, each item being considered a separate appropriation for FY07:

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO AND FOR</u>
\$3,500.00	Stabilization	School Dept. Annual Audit

RECOMMEDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).
VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 4/5 vote.

A motion was made by Selectman Julie Woods and seconded by Selectman Arthur Dubois to accept Article 2.

A hand vote was taken. The moderator declared that the motion passed with more than 4/5 voting in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3: FY07 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to balance certain line items within the FY07 budget approved under Article 7 of the May 9, 2006, Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: Transfers from miscellaneous Town department line items to others which are needed to fund FY07 anticipated budget deficiencies; additional appropriation from Stabilization as noted.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amounts as stated in the following chart for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, each item being considered a separate appropriation for FY07:

From	Amount	To	Amount
School Roof Boiler Art 06 Nov 04	72,225.00	School Town Building Maintenance	72,225.00
Board of Health Salaries	23,000.00	Board of Health Expenses	23,000.00
Town Clerk Salaries	1,000.00	Treasurer/Collector Salaries	1,000.00
Fire Salaries	3,000.00	Fire Expenses	3,000.00
Police Salaries	33,900.00	Police Expenses	21,900.00
		Data Processing Expenses	12,000.00
Library Expenses	1,500.00	Library Salaries	1,500.00
Data Processing Expenses	4,036.00	Computer Lease/Purchase	4,036.00
Election & Registration Expense	10,000.00	Election & Registration Salaries	10,000.00
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	20,000.00	Street Lighting Expenses	16,000.00
		COA Salaries	1,300.00
		Celebrations	700.00
		Pout Pond Expenses	1,000.00
		Historical Commission	500.00
		Building Dept	500.00
Moderator	100.00	Selectmen/Town Manager Salaries	6,714.00
Town Accountant Salaries	24,955.00	Selectmen/Town Manager Expenses	35,000.00
Town Hall Expense	12,500.00	Assessors Salaries	1,400.00
Property & Liability	5,384.00	Town Counsel Expenses	65,000.00
Debt Service	20,000.00	Town Hall Salaries	150.00
Stabilization	144,302.00	Lighting U.S. Flag Common	1,150.00
		Tree Warden Salary	113.00
		Worker's Comp	22,714.00
		Health Insurance	75,000.00
Grand Total	\$375,902.00	Grand Total	\$375,902.00

Correction noted for Line #4: Change "Fire Salaries" to "Fire Expenses", Change "Fire Expenses" to "Fire Salaries" (reverse the language in the "From" and "To" columns).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0). The list includes a transfer from Stabilization for the project to address issues in the accounting system, to fund Town Counsel expenses and to fund increases in insurance and workers compensation costs.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

Peter Baghdasarian made a motion to amend as follows -
Change the amount of stabilization in the "from" column:
Replace \$144, 302 with \$79,302
Change the amount of Town Counsel Expenses in the "to" column:
Replace \$65,000 with "0"

Discussion of the amendment to the main motion followed.
A hand tally followed the discussion. The moderator declared that the amendment passes with a majority vote. A standing vote was requested.

The moderator asks the tellers to divide up the assembly for counting purposes. The vote is then taken. The tally shows 108 votes for the amendment, 121 votes against the amendment. The moderator declares the vote reversed and the motion is defeated.

Discussion of the main motion resumes. It would take a 2/3 affirmative vote to pass, because it involves a stabilization transfer. A hand tally was taken. The moderator determines that the affirmative vote is not 2/3 and therefore the motion does not pass. A standing vote was requested.

The tellers counted the standing vote in the affirmative, followed by the standing vote in the negative. The tally showed 156 voting for the motion and 104 voting against the motion. The motion did not have 2/3 vote and therefore is defeated.

Selectman Arthur Dubois made a motion to reconsider. Motion seconded. Selectman Dubois discussed his motion to reconsider. Debate followed.

Selectman James Dwyer suggested that the article could be divided to vote separately on each item presented in the article.

The moderator discussed all of the options town meeting has to reconsider.

The motion to reconsider is voted with hand count. The moderator declares that the motion to reconsider does not have the 2/3 vote necessary to pass. The motion to reconsider fails.

ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT(S)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund salary increases and other cost-items resulting from contract settlements with union personnel, or take any other action relative thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

***Commentary:** This was a placeholder case the Police Union contract was settled by this date.*

MOTION: No motion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendation.

There will be no motion on the article.

VOTE NEEDED: N/A

Town Meeting Action: No motion therefore no action

ARTICLE 5: TOWN BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to fix compensation of all elected officials of the town, provide for a reserve fund, determine sums to be raised and appropriated, including those from available funds, in order to defray expenses including debt and interest for fiscal year 2008 (FY08) – approve the budget, or take any other action related thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

***Commentary:** Please see the attached FY2008 Budget document which includes revenue and expenditure details.*

MOTION: Move that \$34,872,088.00 be appropriated, as set forth in the columns headed “FY 2008 Town Manager FinCom/Recommendation” in the budget prepared by the Town Manager and voted by the Finance Committee for recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2007, as most recently revised; and as funding therefor, to transfer from revenue funds, and raise and appropriate the total sum of \$34,872,088.00, as set forth in the column entitled FY08 projected revenues on the sheet entitled, “Revenue Projections Town Meeting 5/3/07” provided, however, that of the sum of \$19,395,499.00 to be raised by taxation, the sum of \$1,412,910.00 shall be contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of a so-called Proposition 2 ½ override question at a special election. (5/4/07)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable action (6-0).

The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on the FY08 Budget. The Committee recommends the budget be balanced by a Proposition 2 ½ override of \$1.2 million and cuts and/or a transfer from the Stabilization Account of \$237,910. The Committee will make its recommendations on the \$237,910 at Town Meeting.

For FY08, the Town faces a revenue problem with total revenues increasing only 1.7%. This is the result of a very small (1.4%) growth in State Aid, and the fact that the Town used the Stabilization Account to balance the FY07 Budget. Total revenues are up \$569,320. On the expenditure side, health insurance costs are up \$418,935 (13%), Special Education (SPED) is up \$600,000, and the cost of the Blackstone Valley Tech – due to increased enrollments – is up \$213,849 (14%). Energy and retirement costs are

also up. The Town used Free Cash in the amount of \$1,322,542 to balance the FY07 budget.

The Committee is recommending the \$1.2 million override because the Town has a revenue problem. The Committee feels: 1) the budget cannot be balanced through expenditure cuts nor; 2) should it be balanced by a transfer from Stabilization. Through the various budget reviews and Town Meeting votes, the community has articulated its view of the town's "core services" (i.e., public safety, schools, social services, etc.). The FY08 Budget can not be balanced without seriously altering these services. The use of the Stabilization Account to balance the FY08 Budget simply defers the problem to the following year, when the problem will be larger.

\$1.2 Million – Tax Impact: The average assessed value for a house in Uxbridge is \$337,000. The override will cost this household \$240 a year – or \$60 a quarter.

The Finance Committee, along with other Town officials, sees the low growth in revenues as a continuing problem. State Aid will continue to be flat and the allowed increase in property taxes (Prop 2 ½) will not be enough to cover rising costs. In addition to meeting operating costs, the tax payer faces important questions on how the Town will pay for capital (infrastructure) costs and the new high school.

VOTE NEEDED: Requires simple majority provided none of the money is coming from Stabilization. Stabilization requires a 2/3 vote.

A motion was made by Selectman Julie Woods and seconded by Selectman Arthur Dubois to pass Article 5.

Town Manager Jill Myers and Town Treasurer David Genereux made a presentation on a projector with slides, supplemented with individual handouts.

Finance Committee Chairwoman Mary Wickstrom made a motion on behalf of the Fincom that the town budget be balanced with a Proposition 2 ½ override of \$1.2 million and a transfer of \$212, 910 from the stabilization fund.

A debate followed on the Finance Committee's amendment. A standing vote was taken and the moderator determined that the amendment passes.

A discussion followed on the main motion as amended.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question. The moderator declared that there was an affirmative 2/3 vote to move the question. He also ruled that amendments and debate is allowed on each individual account.

David Moriarty made a motion to amend the Town Counsel Expenses (change \$125,000 recommendation to \$40,000).

A discussion followed on the amendment.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question. The moderator declares that the standing vote showed the simple majority needed to pass has been met.

The amendment passes.

David Moriarty made a motion to amend the Conservation Salaries Account (change \$40,958 to read \$0.)

Selectman James Dwyer made a point of order – arguing that there is no main motion on the floor. The moderator responded that we are dividing the main motion by going item by item and then voting on the main motion.

Moderator Harold Klei then relinquished the gavel to Board of Selectman Chair Julie Woods to argue against the amendment. A discussion followed on the amendment.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question. Acting Moderator Julie Woods declares that the standing vote showed that a majority did not vote for the amendment so the amendment fails. There was a demand for a standing vote. A tally of the standing vote shows that 75 voted in favor of the amendment, 122 against the amendment.

The amendment fails.

Selectman Julie Woods made a motion to adjourn the Annual Spring Town Meeting and have it reconvene until June 13, 7pm at the Uxbridge High School gymnasium. The motion passes and the meeting recessed until June 13, 7pm.